

CAPTAIN MATTHEW M. SNIFFIN
VICE COMMANDER
NAVAL AIR WARFARE CENTER WEAPONS DIVISION

Capt. Matthew M. Sniffin, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, graduated from the University of Florida in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in marketing. He earned his commission through Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida, in February 1997, and his "Wings of Gold" at Naval Air Station Meridian, Mississippi, in 1999. He graduated from Touro University while in Yokosuka, Japan, with a Master of Business Administration in 2007.



Sniffin reported to the "Ironmen" of Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 3 at Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma, in November 2001, where he was the squadron's lead NATOPS pilot evaluator and operations flight officer. In November 2004, he joined Training Squadron (VT) 31 in Corpus Christi, Texas, as a joint squadron instructor pilot flying the T-44 King Air 90. During his time as VT-31's aviation safety officer, the squadron earned the 2004 CNO Safety Award and 2005 Safety Excellence Award.

Sniffin transferred to Yokosuka, Japan, in September 2006, to serve as plans officer for Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet aboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19). He was lead planner for the Joint Operations Planning and Execution System; humanitarian mission Mercy 2008; and for combined exercises with the Australian Defense Forces, Republic of Korea military, and Japanese Self Defense Forces.

In April 2008, he joined the "Shadows" of VQ-4, where he served as the safety officer, administration department head, and maintenance officer. He was also Task Force 124 Forward Detachment Officer-in-Charge in Qatar, flying missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom where Sniffin personally flew 23 combat sorties, earning the Air Medal.

In March 2011, he became J39 Information Operations Branch chief, planning and directing all U.S. Pacific Command's strategic communications, information operations and non-lethal fires.

In May 2013, Sniffin took command of the "Roughnecks" of VQ-7. There, he oversaw the rewrite of the NATOPS, the creation of a Naval Aviation Technical Information Product, and revamped the community's Crew Resource Management program. Following command, he reported to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command/Commander 5th Fleet as the executive assistant to the commander.

Sniffin took over as Vice Commander for Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division in January 2018.

Personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Meritorious Service medals, Air Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, four Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various other service and unit awards.